

Production No. 1F02

The Simpsons

"HOMER GOES TO COLLEGE"

Written by

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TABLE DRAFT

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NOTE: FOR TABLE READ ONLY

"HOMER GOES TO COLLEGE"

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
MARGE.....JULIE KAVNER  
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT  
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH  
GRAMPA.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
MR. BURNS.....HARRY SHEARER  
SMITHERS.....HARRY SHEARER  
MAYOR QUIMBY.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
KRUSTY THE CLOWN.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
DOUG.....HANK AZARIA  
GARY.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
BENJAMIN.....HARRY SHEARER  
NELSON.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT  
DR. HIBBERT.....HARRY SHEARER  
NRC MAN.....HANK AZARIA  
NRC WOMAN.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT  
DUMB EMPLOYEE #1.....HANK AZARIA  
DUMB EMPLOYEE #2.....HARRY SHEARER  
LAWYER.....HARRY SHEARER  
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR.....HARRY SHEARER  
ADMISSIONS MAN.....HARRY SHEARER  
ADMISSIONS WOMAN.....JULIE KAVNER  
FOREIGN MAN.....HANK AZARIA

ANNOUNCER (V.O.).....HARRY SHEARER  
 ANGRY DEAN.....HANK AZARIA  
 PRESIDENT.....HARRY SHEARER  
 COREY.....HANK AZARIA  
 SCHOLAR.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
 OVERSEERS.....HANK/HARRY/DAN  
 JOCK.....HANK AZARIA  
 TOUR STUDENT.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
 BUMBLEE MAN.....HANK AZARIA  
 FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDENTS DAN/YEARDLEY/HANK  
 FRESHMAN.....HARRY SHEARER  
 SKINNY STUDENT.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
 CROWD.....DAN/HARRY/HANK/  
   NANCY/JULIE/YEARDLEY  
 DEAN PETERSON.....HANK AZARIA  
 PROFESSOR.....HARRY SHEARER  
 CHINESE STUDENT.....HANK AZARIA  
 FOREMAN.....HANK AZARIA  
 ARCHITECT.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
 MEN.....HARRY/HANK  
 GUY #1.....HARRY SHEARER  
 GUY #2.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
 FIG.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
 CROWD OF STUDENTS.....DAN/HARRY/HANK/  
   NANCY/JULIE/YEARDLEY  
 STUDENT.....DAN CASTELLANETA  
 TEXAS GUY .....DAN CASTELLANETA

BRANDING GUY.....HANK AZARIA

JAIL BIRD.....HANK AZARIA

"HOMER GOES TO COLLEGE"

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ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - DAY

We hear the sound of many PEOPLE SNORING.

INT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - DAY

MUSIC: A SLOW, LAZY BANJO PLAYS, "OH SUZANNAH"

HOMER is at his station, leaning back in a rocking chair, sleeping blissfully. He has a stalk of alfalfa in his mouth. An old hound dog we've never seen before is asleep at Homer's bare feet.

We PAN around to see that everyone is napping. LENNY'S bare feet are resting on a leaky drum of contaminated waste. A jug of moonshine is on the floor next to him. We see that the entrance to the core is a rusty screen door, BANGING in the breeze.

The camera PULLS OUT from this scene on Burns' monitor and we see BURNS dozing at his desk. He's dressed exactly like Colonel Sanders. SMITHERS is curled up, asleep at Burns' feet.

EXT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - CONTINUOUS

A large, high-tech van pulls up in front of the plant. A MAN in the cab checks a scrap of paper.

NRC MAN

Cooling towers, plutonium generator,  
red shutters. This must be the place.

The man and a WOMAN walk up to the front door and RING a doorbell. After a beat, we hear a groggy Mr. Burns over the intercom.

BURNS (V.O.)

(GROGGY SOUTHERN ACCENT) Wuzza... I  
say, I say... who dat?

NRC MAN

We're from the Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission. This is a surprise test of  
worker competence.

BURNS (V.O.)

(PAUSE) There must be some mistake. We  
make cookies here. Only the finest  
ingredients...

NRC WOMAN

(TO MAN) Get the axe.

Instantly, the NRC man starts **CHOPPING** down the door.  
Behind the door we hear panicked chickens **SQUAWKING**.

**INT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - BURNS' OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER**

Burns and Smithers watch a line of **EMPLOYEES** file into the  
test van from their window.

BURNS

(CONTEMPTUOUS) The watchdog of public  
safety. Is there any lower form of  
life?

SMITHERS

Don't worry, sir. I rounded up our less  
gifted employees and led them into the  
basement.

**INT. BASEMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - CONTINUOUS**

Homer and TWO very STUPID LOOKING EMPLOYEES stand in the dark recesses of the plant. In between them is a glass jar with a bee BUZZING inside it.

DUMB EMPLOYEE #1

Homer, why are we down here?

HOMER

I told you, Benny. To guard the bee.

DUMB EMPLOYEE #2

But why?

HOMER

(SUPERIOR) You guys are pathetic. No

wonder Smithers made me Head Bee Guy.

Homer lies down to take a nap, knocking over the jar. The bee escapes.

HOMER (CONT'D)

It's getting away...

DUMB EMPLOYEE #2

(CLUTCHING HIS HEAD) We did bad!

The bee zips down a tunnel and Homer chases after it.

**EXT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - CONTINUOUS**

The NRC man and woman are getting to the end of their test.

NRC MAN

Is there a Homer Simpson present?

SMITHERS

I'm afraid he couldn't bee here.

Smithers and Burns share a LAUGH.

SMITHERS (CONTD)

He's in Geneva, chairing a conference  
on Nuclear Fission.

NRC WOMAN

(IMPRESSED) H-mmm. What an amazing  
mind he must have.

Suddenly, Homer pops out of a manhole, clutching his  
swollen behind. He hops up and down in front of the NRC  
men, his I.D. badge clearly displayed.

HOMER

(MOANING IN PAIN) The bee bit my  
bottom. Now my bottom's big!

EXT. SIMULATOR VAN - MOMENTS LATER

NRC WOMAN

Relax, Mr. Simpson. This van is just  
going to simulate normal working  
conditions so we can monitor your work  
habits.

HOMER

(CALM) Gotcha.

Homer approaches a door marked "PUSH" and tries pulling it  
open. He pulls again, then puts both feet on the door and  
starts tugging furiously on the knob.

HOMER (CONTD)

(FURIOUS GRUNTING AND GROWLING)

NRC WOMAN

Mr. Simpson...

HOMER

Wait, don't tell me. I'll get it.



He thinks for a beat, then starts pulling furiously again.

**EXT. SIMULATOR VAN - LATER**

The two NRC Inspectors are sitting behind a console, talking with Homer on an intercom.

NRC MAN

(OVER INTERCOM) All right, Homer. We're going to simulate a power surge in core sector eight.

**INT. SIMULATOR VAN - CONTINUOUS**

Homer is sitting at a replica of his work station.

HOMER

What do I do!? (SOBBING) In the name of God you've got to tell me!

NRC MAN

Relax, it's just a simulator. Nothing can go wrong.

HOMER

(CHIPPER) Ah, a no brainer...

Homer scans the board and starts pushing buttons indiscriminately.

**EXT. SIMULATOR VAN - CONTINUOUS**

The van starts to **VIBRATE** ominously.

NRC MAN

(HORRIFIED) Oh no... this can't be happening!

The van starts **HUMMING** and glowing bright green. Everyone scatters.

**ANGLE - SMITHERS AND BURNS**

Burns steps into an escape pod a la "Star Wars" and shuts the door on Smithers.

SMITHERS

For the love of god, sir, there are  
two seats...

BURNS

(QUICKLY) I like to put my feet up.

The pod **SHOOTS** fifteen feet into the air, hits the ground, and rolls down the street, knocking into trash cans, etc.

**ANGLE - THE VAN**

It's glowing more intensely. Homer steps out, **WHISTLING** nervously. He puts his hands in his pockets, takes a few steps, and breaks into a run. The van melts into the earth.

**INT. - BURNS' OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY**

Burns and the NRC people are having a meeting. Outside the rear window, in the background, a team of **MEN** in spacesuits are covering the steaming hole with blue foam.

NRC MAN

We're still not sure how he caused the  
meltdown. There isn't any nuclear  
material in the truck.

BURNS

Yes, well, it's over. Let's just throw  
some hush money around and get on with  
the business of volatile chain  
reactions.

NRC WOMAN

Look, Burns, this is a big problem.  
You can't just throw money at it and  
make it go away.

MAYOR QUIMBY enters, wearing a long, fur coat with a price  
tag on the sleeve.

QUIMBY

Gentlemen, I've decided there will be  
no investigation. Now if you'll excuse  
me, I'll go away.

Quimby exits. The NRC people produce a large file.

NRC MAN

You're in a lot of trouble, Burns. The  
position of Chief Safety Inspector  
requires college training in Nuclear  
Physics. Get your man Simpson up to  
speed or we'll be forced to take legal  
action.

BURNS

Is that so? (COY) Well I have the  
feeling you'll be "dropping" the  
charges...

Burns presses a button and a trap door on the far side of  
the room swings open, harming no one.

SMITHERS

The painters moved your desk, sir.

BURNS

(REMEMBERING) Oh, yes.

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

The doorbell RINGS. Homer opens the front door, revealing Burns, Smithers, and a pack of LAWYERS in suits.

HOMER

(SCREAMS)

BURNS

Hello, Simpson. My lawyers and I were in the neighborhood and thought we'd stop by.

MARGE

Would you like to come in for tea and marshmallow squares?

The lawyers confer solemnly, then one of them steps forward.

LAWYER

Yes. He would.

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER**

The Simpson family and Burns are sitting at the table having tea. Smithers and the lawyers stand behind Burns.

HOMER

So you want me to go to college?

BART

What'd you do? Bet another millionaire you could put an ape through school?

HOMER

Bart!

Burns stands up and goes to the door with his men.

BURNS

Remember, your job and the future of  
your family hinges on your successful  
completion of Nuclear Physics 101.

He turns to leave, then turns back.

BURNS (CONTD)

Oh yes, and you have twenty-four hours!

Ha ha ha ha ha!

SMITHERS

Actually, sir, he has at least three  
months. It's your brother who has  
twenty-four hours.

BURNS

That's right. (CHUCKLES) He'll never  
find the antidote.

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - LATER THAT EVENING**

Homer and Marge are in bed.

MARGE

I think this is a great opportunity.  
You could learn so much.

HOMER

Maybe you're right. I did always want  
to go to college, but fate stood in the  
way.

DISSOLVE TO:

**FLASHBACK**

**INT. GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S - DAY**

Homer's meeting with his GUIDANCE COUNSELOR.

COUNSELOR

Homer, I bent the rules and filled out  
your college applications for you.

Just sign here and you're a shoe-in.

A dog runs by the window with a ham in its mouth.

HOMER

(LAUGHS) That dog has somebody's ham!

This I gotta see!

Homer runs out. The guidance counselor **SIGHS**.

DISSOLVE BACK  
TO:

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

MARGE

That isn't a very inspiring story.

HOMER

(SUPERIOR) You didn't let me finish.

(THINKS) Wait, I was finished.

MARGE

(DUBIOUS MURMUR)

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LISA'S ROOM - DAY**

Homer sits at Lisa's desk crumpling up a blank sheet of paper. He tosses it onto a large pile of paper balls and starts mechanically crumpling a fresh sheet. Lisa sits on the bed.

LISA

Dad, you shouldn't let these college application essays intimidate you. Just craft a sincere and well-reasoned response to the question. Let's see...

(READING) "List your three favorite books and how they've influenced your life."

HOMER

Is "TV Guide" a book?

LISA

No.

HOMER

"Son of Sniglets??"

LISA

No.

HOMER

Katherine Hepburn's "Me"?

LISA

(IMPATIENT) No.

HOMER

(MOANS) I suck.

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Bart is on the couch watching TV while Homer lies on the rug, working on an application.

HOMER

(WRITING) "... it was the most I ever  
threw-up and it changed me forever. The  
End."

BART

You the man, Homer.

HOMER

Thanks boy. Now, for the crowning  
touch...

**ANGLE - APPLICATION**

There's a box which reads, "PASTE PHOTO HERE." Homer slaps  
down a candid photo of himself with 'red-eye,' biting into  
a birthday cake.

BART

I dunno, Dad. Don't you have a better  
picture?

HOMER

Relax, a photo can't make any  
difference.

CUT TO:

**INT. ADMISSIONS OFFICE - DAY**

A group of ADMISSIONS OFFICERS are examining a poster-sized  
blow-up of Homer's picture.

ADMISSIONS MAN

He looks crazy.

ADMISSIONS WOMAN

Agreed. Reading his essay would only  
waste valuable seconds.

They move on to a photo of a teenager.



ADMISSIONS MAN

H-mmm. Nice cheekbones...

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bart is on the sofa watching television.

ANGLE - TV

KRUSTY THE CLOWN is doing a Letterman-style remote. He stands outside a shoe store talking with a FOREIGN MAN in an apron. A sign on the window reads, "SHOE KING."

KRUSTY

(WRY) It says here you're the "Shoe King." Is there a "Shoe Queen?" How about a shoe-parliament?

FOREIGN MAN

I do not know what you are saying.

KRUSTY

(WHISPERING) Be funny, you're on TV.

BACK TO SCENE

Homer enters the room and changes the channel.

HOMER

Sorry, son, but there's a program on American Universities I think I should watch.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

We now return to Corey Masterson in,  
"School of Hard Knockers."

ANGLE - TV

An Angry Dean is welcoming the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES to the college.

PRESIDENT

Dean Bitterman, I hope nothing unsavory happens during my visit. As you know, I am the President of the United States.

ANGRY DEAN

Don't worry, I've expelled those rowdy member of Chug-a-lug House.

ANGLE HOMER

HOMER

(BITTER) I hate that lousy dean!

ANGLE BACK ON TV

COREY and a NERD are poised over a dynamite plunger.

COREY

Your bra-bomb better work, Nerdlinger.

Corey pushes the plunger and we hear an EXPLOSION.

CUT TO:

Thousands of bras rain down on the Angry Dean and the President. The President is dancing.

ANGRY DEAN

Corey!

PRESIDENT

Lighten up, Bitterman. That youngster will make a perfect addition to my cabinet... Secretary of Partying Down!

The Angry Dean turns to camera.

ANGRY DEAN

G-rrrrrr!

A bra lands on his head.

ANGLE HOMER

HOMER

Yes! Take that, Bitterman!

ON TV

The movie ends and ROCK MUSIC starts to play. Credits scroll past insipid stills from the movie.

ANGLE - HOMER

HOMER

(AWED) College is the greatest place on earth...

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

The family is eating breakfast when Marge enters with a stack of mail.

MARGE

Homer, your college acceptance letters are here.

Homer grabs the letters and rips one open.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

He rapidly opens the others.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(ANNOYED GRUNT) (ANNOYED GRUNT) Woo

hoo! A flyer for a hardware store!

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

BART

Well, Pop, what are you going to do?

HOMER

(DETERMINED) Something I should have  
done a long time ago...

The family looks at Homer for a beat.

MARGE

You don't know, do you?

HOMER

(MEEK) No.

INT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - BURNS' OFFICE - DAY

A contrite Homer sits while Burns paces back and forth.

BURNS

Don't worry, Simpson, we're not going  
to let a little thing like your idiocy  
keep you from the pinnacle of American  
education. (DARKLY) It just so happens  
I have a chair at Springfield  
University...

CUT TO:

INT. BOARD OF OVERSEERS CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

We PAN DOWN a table of distinguished OVERSEERS to Burns,  
who is sitting on a very scary chair with a high, jagged  
back, carved demons on the arms, and a SNARLING DOG chained  
to one of the legs.

SCHOLAR

I'm sorry, Mr. Burns, but I must  
object. This "Simpson" is not  
qualified.

The OTHERS nod and MUTTER in agreement.

BURNS

I see. Well, you know, fellas, I look at the admissions board a lot like a baseball team. You all like baseball, don't you?

OVERSEERS

(MUTTERED AGREEMENT)

Burns stands up brandishing a baseball bat and circles the table a la Al Capone in "The Untouchables."

BURNS

Well, to have a successful baseball team, you need teamwork. (ANGRY) Not some hot dog admissions officer playing by his own rules.

Burns wheels around and begins bashing the scholar's head with a bat. Burns is so feeble, the Scholar barely notices.

SCHOLAR

Huh?... What are you doing?

BURNS

I'm giving you the beating of your life!

Burns continues hitting him, GRUNTING and GROANING.

SCHOLAR

(UNAFFECTED) Look, if you want him in that badly, why didn't you just say so?

Burns sits down on the floor, exhausted.

BURNS

Smithers, saw up the corpse and send  
his widow a corsage.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Homer opens a letter.

HOMER

Woo hoo, I'm a college man! I won't  
need my high school diploma anymore.

Homer takes out a cigarette lighter and lights his high  
school diploma on fire on the living room wall. He does a  
happy rumba as the fire spreads behind him.

HOMER (CONT'D)

I am so smart/ I am so smart/ I am so  
smart/ I am so smart.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. SPRINGFIELD UNIVERSITY - DAY

Homer and Marge drive through the campus gate. A sign reads "SPRINGFIELD UNIVERSITY - EST. 1952. ASK ABOUT OUR LATIN MOTTO CONTEST."

HOMER

My first day of college. I wish my  
father was alive to see this.

PAN TO GRAMPA sitting in the back seat.

GRAMPA

Hey!

HOMER

How long have you been back there?

GRAMPA

(SADLY) Three days.

. They stop the car. Homer notices a BOOKISH STUDENT with glasses.

HOMER

(SHOUTING) Nerd!

MARGE

Homer, that isn't very nice.

HOMER

Marge, try to understand. There are  
two kinds of college students: jocks  
and nerds. As a jock, it's my duty to  
give nerds a hard time.

A JOCK strolls by.

HOMER

Hey pal, did you get a load of the  
nerd?

JOCK

(CONFUSED) Pardon me?

**EXT. SPRINGFIELD U. - STUDENT UNION - LATER**

A STUDENT is leading an orientation tour of the campus.

TOUR STUDENT

This is the student dining hall, where  
each day our kitchen prepares two tons  
of powdered eggs, four tons of  
soyburger, and three tons of mock-apple  
filler.

HOMER

(GURGLING NOISE)

**INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - LANGUAGE CENTER - LATER**

The GROUP is looking at a room of sophisticated language  
booths.

TOUR STUDENT

(SQUEAKY VOICE) This is the language  
center, where students employ state of  
the art audio and visual equipment to  
master foreign languages...

PAN OVER to see a group of STUDENTS watching a widescreen  
TV. On the screen, BUMBLEBEE MAN sits on a chair  
containing a porcupine.

BUMBLEE MAN

Ay, es muy malo!



## FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDENTS

(IN UNISON) Ay, es muy malo!

## INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - DINING HALL - NIGHT

The room is packed with students. Most are talking with one another and some are dancing tentatively to a Sonic Youth Song. A banner reads "WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF '97 MIXER." Homer and Marge enter.

HOMER

What did I tell you, Marge. College is  
one big party.

A FRESHMAN approaches Marge.

FRESHMAN

Hey, wild thing, what do you say we  
ditch your dad and... (SLY) you  
know...

MARGE

(ANNOYED) That man's my husband.

FRESHMAN

(PANICKED WHISPER) Please, you've got  
to help me. I'm a virgin!

## INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - DINING HALL - REFRESHMENT STAND

Homer looks furtively around, pulls a flask out of his jacket, and pours liquor into the punchbowl.

HOMER

Heh heh. I'll be a campus hero...

A SKINNY STUDENT approaches and dips his cup in the punch. He takes a sip and jumps up on a chair.

SKINNY STUDENT

Attention everyone! The punch has been  
spiked!

CROWD

(GASPS)

SKINNY STUDENT

But there's no cause for alarm. Untainted punch should be here shortly!

CROWD

(CHEERS)

ANGLE - HOMER AND MARGE

HOMER

Marge, someone's squeezed all the life out of these kids. (GROWING ANGRY) And unless movies and TV have lied to me, it's a crusty, bitter, old dean!

A smiling, baby-faced DEAN PETERSON approaches. He's in his early thirties and has a full head of blonde hair.

DEAN PETERSON

(ENGAGING) Hello, I'm Dean Peterson.

Please let me know if there's any way I can make Springfield U. a more enjoyable place. (BRANDISHING A FLASHLIGHT) Now if you'll excuse me, I promised to help some students find their frisbee.

He exits.

HOMER

(ANGRY) Boy, I can't wait to take some of the starch out of his collar.

**INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - NUCLEAR PHYSICS CLASS - DAY**

Homer is sitting in the upper tier of a massive lecture hall. The PROFESSOR enters.

PROFESSOR

Good morning and welcome to Nuclear  
Physics 101. I see a lot of new faces,  
but you know the old saying, "Out with  
the old, in with the nucleus!"

Everyone **LAUGHS** except Homer.

PROFESSOR

Now, we'll begin by - oops...

The Professor drops his notes.

HOMER

(LONG, OBNOXIOUS LAUGH)

DISSOLVE TO:

**INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - NUCLEAR PHYSICS CLASS - LATER**

As the lecture progresses, Homer notices the students around him furiously taking notes. He glances at his own book.

**ANGLE - NOTEBOOK**

Homer has written "GOOD MORNING" at the top of the page. Below that is a goofy drawing of the professor wearing a duncecap with a word balloon saying "BLAH BLAH BLAH." Homer rips it out and hands it to a CHINESE STUDENT next to him.

HOMER

Ps-s-st, pass it around...

CHINESE STUDENT

(MUTTERED ANGRY CHINESE)

## ANGLE - THE PROFESSOR

PROFESSOR

Now, if anyone would like to stay, I'm  
going to hold a comprehensive review  
session after every class.

HOMER

Do we have to?

PROFESSOR

No.

HOMER

(WAY TOO BIG) Then kiss my yellow butt  
goodbye!

Homer bounds out of the hall and everyone else stays.  
After a beat, he is visible through a large window, chasing  
squirrels with a stick and LAUGHING.

## INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Homer is lying on his bed. The room has been transformed  
into a college dorm with posters of ballerina feet,  
Einstein sticking out his tongue, and W.C. Fields playing  
cards covering the walls. A cruddy bookshelf made of  
cinderblocks stands near the bed. Marge notices the  
bookcase.

MARGE

Homer, we have a perfectly good  
bookcase.

HOMER

Yeah, but this is what they're doing on  
campus. Besides, it isn't costing us -  
I swiped the cinderblocks from a  
construction site.

CUT TO:

**EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - CONTINUOUS**

A sign reads "FUTURE SITE OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL." A FOREMAN is talking to an ARCHITECT.

FOREMAN

Sir, six cinderblocks are missing.

ARCHITECT

(GRIM) There'll be no hospital then.

I'll tell the children.

**INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - NUCLEAR PHYSICS CLASS - DAY**

The Professor walks to a model of a complex machine.

PROFESSOR

This proton accelerator de-stabilizes  
the atom in this chamber here, then  
propels it...

Homer stands up.

HOMER

(COCKY) Excuse me "professor," but you  
can't learn about a proton accelerator  
in a classroom. I had to get my hands  
dirty for eight years to really know  
that baby inside-out.

PROFESSOR

Well please, come down and show us.

CUT TO:

**EXT. SPRINGFIELD U. - NUCLEAR PHYSICS CLASS - MOMENTS LATER**

Students run SCREAMING from the classroom, which glows bright green. Homer walks out nonchalantly and sees the men in protective suits (from Act One) running towards the classroom.

HOMER

In there, guys.

MEN

Thanks, Homer.

**INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY**

DEAN

Homer, no one blames you for the  
accident. We simply feel you might  
benefit with a little outside tutoring.  
I researched these names myself...

He hands Homer a slip of paper.

HOMER

(MUTTERING) You've won this round,  
Dean. But the war isn't over.

**HOMER'S THOUGHT BUBBLE**

We see Homer RINGING the Dean's doorbell, and running away.  
The Dean opens the door and looks around.

DEAN PETERSON

Hmm. No one's here. Oh well.

He shuts the door.

**BACK TO SCENE**

HOMER

(TENTING HIS HANDS) Heh heh. Some  
day, Dean. Some day...

**INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - DORMITORY HALLWAY - DAY**

Homer consults the slip of paper and approaches a door. On  
the door is a quotation.

HOMER

(READING) "The Empires of the Future  
are the Empires of the Mind" - Winston  
Churchill. (MAKES THE 'DOPE-SMOKING'  
GESTURE)

He **KNOCKS** on the door and no one answers. After a beat, he  
pushes the door open and peeks in.

**INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - DORM ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Three science nerds: GARY, DOUG, AND BENJAMIN, each sit at  
a small desk typing on a computer. A Starship Enterprise  
model (The Next Generation) hangs from the ceiling, and a  
Ren and Stimpy Poster covers one wall.

HOMER

Hiya, gang!

DOUG

(ROBOT VOICE) Intruder Alert! Intruder  
Alert!

GARY

(ROBOT VOICE) Stop the Humanoid!

They all **GIGGLE** childishly.

HOMER

(IRRITATED) Look, I'm supposed to get a  
tutor...

BENJAMIN

Which course?

HOMER

I dunno, "Nuclear... something." I've  
only been there a few weeks...

They all start **CLICKING** away on their computers.

DOUG

H-mmm, I'm showing a Nuclear Physics  
101 on the fall class breakdowns...

GARY

Cross-referencing with middle aged  
students gives me a 'Homer Simpson'...

BENJAMIN

Running that name through police files  
shows... (TO HOMER) You dropped a  
brick off an overpass?

HOMER

(ANNOYED) It was a joke.

DOUG

Well, you've come to the right place,  
Mr. Simpson. If there's one thing we  
know, it's science...

BENJAMIN

And math...

GARY

And the words to every Monty Python  
routine...

GARY/ DOUG/ BENJAMIN

We are the Knights who say Nee!

They start GIGGLING uncontrollably at this bit. Homer  
looks around nervously.

HOMER

Heh heh. "Nee."



## INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The family is eating dinner.

HOMER

(FILLED WITH WONDER) We played Dungeons  
and Dragons for three hours. (SADLY)  
Then I was slain by an elf.

BART

Listen to yourself, man. You're  
hanging with nerds.

HOMER

(THREATENING) You take that back...

MARGE

Homer, please. These boys sound very  
nice, but they're clearly nerds.

HOMER

(PLEADING) But Marge, you've seen  
movies. Nerds wear thick glasses with  
tape around the middle. And they have  
names like "Nerdameyer" or  
"Nerdington."

LISA

Dad, nerds are nothing to fear. In  
fact they've done some pretty memorable  
things. Some nerds of note include;  
popcorn magnate, Orville Redenbacher,  
rock star, David Byrne and Supreme  
Court Justice David Souter.

HOMER

(GASPS) Not Souter...

Homer **MOANS** and buries his head in his hands.

**INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - DORM ROOM - DAY**

Gary, Doug, and Benjamin are sitting behind their computers, exactly like before. Homer lies on the couch with a textbook open on his chest.

DOUG

Come on, Mr. Simpson, you'll never pass this course if you don't know the periodic table.

HOMER

(GLUM) I'll write it on my hand...

DOUG

Including all known Lanthanides and Actinides? (CHORTLING) Good luck!

x Homer sits up.

HOMER

C'mon guys, look at yourselves. You're in college and what do you do all day?

BENJAMIN

I've memorized the titles of all two thousand Isaac Asimov stories.

(QUICKLY, TO HIMSELF) "Absolution," "Aerocon 4," "After Mirabar..."

HOMER

Don't any of you have a girlfriend?

DOUG

There's a girl down the hall who  
 borrowed my printer once.

They all GIGGLE. Homer jumps to his feet.

HOMER

Boys, we're going out! I'm going to  
 show you the true meaning of college!

GARY

I'll get my hat with the ear flaps.

DOUG

Me too.

BENJAMIN

Me too.

**EXT. SPRINGFIELD U. - THACKER HALL - NIGHT**

Homer stands outside a dorm with the three nerds. A sign  
 reads, "THACKER HALL."

HOMER

(LECTURING) Now, a major part of  
 college life is feuding with a rival  
 dorm. You shout insults at them and  
 soon they're doing it back to you.

GARY

I don't know, student security might  
 take our names down.

HOMER

(GIDDY) Come on, it'll turn the campus  
upside down!

The three nerds walk tentatively up to the Dorm, look at one another, and begin SHOUTING.

GARY/ DOUG/ BENJAMIN

Thacker sucks! Thacker sucks! Thacker  
sucks!

CUT TO:

INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - THACKER HALL - CONTINUOUS

TWO GUYS are lying in their beds, listening. They look stricken.

GUY #1

Should we shout something back?

GUY #2

No, then there'd be hurt feelings on  
both sides.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DAY

Homer is loading beer into the back of the family car. Gary, Doug, and Benjamin sit patiently in the back seat.

HOMER

Aah, the college road trip. What  
better way to spread beer-fueled  
mayhem?

Marge approaches.

MARGE

If you're going for a ride I'd like you  
to take Bart and Lisa.

HOMER

(WHINY) But Marge, we're college guys  
and we're up to no good...

Doug leans out the window.

DOUG

Excuse me, could we get some pillows to  
sit on?

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

An angry Homer drives with Bart and Lisa in the front seat. The three nerds sit in the back -- Gary is asleep, Doug is listening to "Devo" on a walkman, and Benjamin is **CLICKING** away on a laptop. Everyone is wearing paper hats that read, "WALDO'S PETTING ZOO."

LISA

Oh, those baby ducks were so cute. I  
can't believe they let us walk right up  
and feed them.

The car hits a small bump.

BENJAMIN

Mr. Simpson, could you watch those  
bumps? They jar my data.

Homer **GROWLS**.

INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - DORM ROOM - DAY

Gary, Doug, and Benjamin are at their desks and Homer is pacing back and forth. Bart is lying on the couch, playing with a yo-yo.

HOMER

I'm telling you, a big crazy prank is  
just what the doctor ordered. The  
Dean'll go nuts!

GARY

But I like the dean.

DOUG

He drove me home to Connecticut last  
Christmas.

HOMER

(ANGRY) Look, maybe you guys just don't  
have the guts to stand up to ol'  
ironbutt.

The three nerds consider this for a beat.

BENJAMIN

We could access his checking account.

GARY

Then close it!

DOUG

(GIGGLING) It'll take him three  
business days to have it re-opened!

HOMER

No, whatever we do has to have  
"style"...

DISSOLVE TO:

**HOMER'S THOUGHTS**

Homer **RINGS** the Dean's doorbell, and then runs away.

DEAN PETERSON

Hmm. Still no one here.

DISSOLVE BACK:

**TO SCENE**

Suddenly, there is a horrible **SCREECHING** sound. Everyone  
turns to see Bart, **SCRAPING** his fingernails down a  
blackboard a la Robert Shaw in "Jaws."

BART

So it's a prank you're lookin' for, is  
it? I'll give you your prank...

INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - DORM ROOM - SEVERAL HOURS LATER

The three nerds, Homer, and Bart are huddled around a large map.

BART

The only other college in fifty miles  
is Springfield A&M, so they're our best  
target.

HOMER

(SEETHING) Those bastards...

ESTABLISHING SHOT - SPRINGFIELD A&M - NIGHT

A sign on the front gate reads "SPRINGFIELD A&M - 'AS  
LISTED IN THE ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF AMERICAN COLLEGES.'

EXT. SPRINGFIELD A & M - NIGHT

Homer sits behind the wheel of his station wagon as Gary,  
Doug, and Benjamin try and force a large PIG into the way-  
back. The pig wears a letter sweater and a beanie.

HOMER

(WHISPERING) What's the problem!?

DOUG

It's the mascot, he doesn't want to get  
into your car.

HOMER

Don't worry, I'm good with animals.

Homer gets out and begins kicking the pig in the ass. It  
works. He gets back in the driver's seat.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Heh heh. The perfect crime...

They back up, **SLAMMING** into a statue of the Founder. The statue topples onto a building marked "RARE BOOKS LIBRARY" and **BURSTS** into flames.

**EXT. SPRINGFIELD U. - DORM - DAY**

Dean Peterson is addressing a group of students just outside the nerds dorm.

DEAN PETERSON

We have reason to believe the pig may  
have been stolen as part of some  
misguided prank. If anyone has any  
information...

Suddenly, they hear **GRUNTING**, **CHEWING** and **STOMPING** coming from inside the dorm.

**INT. DORM ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

The Dean and several students rush into the room and see Homer **GRUNTING** and **STOMPING** his feet as he eats a particularly tasty submarine sandwich.

HOMER

(AD LIB CHEWING NOISES)

DEAN PETERSON

(HORRIFIED) Good lord...

**INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - SUPPLY ROOM - DAY**

Gary, Doug, and Benjamin are hiding out with the pig.

DOUG

How long do we have to hide like this?

GARY

Mr. Simpson said he'd get us when the  
prank couldn't get any funnier.

Suddenly, the pig topples over.



BENJAMIN

(NERVOUS) Guys, he's really sick.

**EXT. SPRINGFIELD U. - CAMPUS - CONTINUOUS**

Dean Peterson is strolling by and hears the THUD.

DEAN PETERSON

Hello, that sounds like a pig fainting.

He runs towards the supply room.

**EXT. SPRINGFIELD U. - CAMPUS LAWN - DAY**

Dean Peterson, the three nerds, and a crowd of students watch as a helicopter takes off, the pig hanging from a winch.

PIG

(MOANS)

GARY

We're sorry. It was just a prank.

CROWD OF STUDENTS

Boo!

STUDENT

Your "prank" taints us all!

CUT TO:

A spinning headline. It reads: "PIG STRICKEN BY RECKLESS STUNT." A photo shows the stricken pig with a thermometer in it's mouth. The sub-headline reads "NERD RING BUSTED."

CUT TO:

**EXT. TEXAS FRAT HOUSE - DAY**

**SUPER: FORT WORTH, TEXAS.**

A GROUP of FRATERNITY BROTHERS are reading the headline. Another is brandishing a red hot iron, about to brand some pledges.

TEXAS GUY

(THICK ACCENT) Hey, it says here  
college high jinks can have serious  
repercussion!

BRANDING GUY

(SINCERELY) I had no idea!

He drops the branding iron in disgust.

**EXT. SPRINGFIELD U. - ENTRANCE - DAY**

The Dean is standing just outside the campus gate with Gary, Doug, and Benjamin. Their luggage and computers lay in a pile at their feet.

DEAN PETERSON

(TEARFUL) I'm sorry, boys, I've never  
expelled anyone before, but that pig  
had some powerful friends. Here's some  
pocket money, it's all I have...

He breaks down **SOBBING** and steps inside the gate. It closes with a **LOUD, HYDRAULIC SOUND** and **CLANGS** shut. After a beat, Homer runs up and **SPEAKS** to them through the gate.

HOMER

Guys, believe me, I didn't know this  
was going to happen...

DOUG

Don't worry, Mr. Simpson. All we need  
is a warm place to live, thousands of  
dollars of electronic equipment, and a  
twenty-four hour dining hall.

BEN

We can take care of ourselves.

Homer watches them sadly through the gate. The three nerds shuffle away pathetically. Suddenly, JAIL BIRD runs up to them.

JAIL BIRD

Wallet inspector.

They immediately hand their wallets over in unison.

DOUG

(CORDIALLY) Here you go. I believe  
it's all in order.

JAIL BIRD

Wow, I can't believe that worked.

Jailbird runs off with the nerds' wallets.

HOMER

(REALIZING) That's not the wallet  
inspector.

On Homer's concerned face we...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gary, Doug, and Benjamin are unloading their stuff in the front hall. Homer is TALKING with Marge in the living room.

HOMER

Marge, they don't have anywhere to stay. Their parents won't return my calls.

MARGE

(DUBIOUS) Well, I suppose it's all right...

HOMER

I swear, they won't be any trouble at all.

Benjamin enters carrying a large duffel bag.

BENJAMIN

Mr. Simpson, who do we talk to about our laundry?

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BART'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bart is lying on his bed throwing darts at the wall. Homer enters with the three nerds, who are carrying all their stuff.

HOMER

Son, the guys are going to bunk with you for awhile.

BART

Like hell they are.

HOMER

Bart! (RECOVERING) It's just until they can (MAKING AIR QUOTES) "get their heads together." C'mon, they'll be the big brothers you never had.

DOUG

Help me move the bed, guys. I need to make room for my vaporizer.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The nerds have set up their computers on three card tables. Cables and surge protectors cover the floor. Marge sits on the couch, reading. Lisa enters.

LISA

Have any of you seen Snowball II?

GARY

I'm allergic to cats so I locked her in the basement.

LISA

(MUTTERING) Damn nerds.

Marge picks up the phone and hears the HIGH-PITCHED SQUEALING and SQUAWKING.

MARGE

What's wrong with this phone? It's making crazy noises.

GARY

(CONDESCENDINGLY) Those "crazy noises" are computer signals.

BENJAMIN

Some guys at M.I.T. are sending us  
reasons why Captain Picard is better  
than Captain Kirk.

DOUG

(CHORTLING) They're out of their minds!

**EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DAY**

Gary, Doug, and Benjamin walk out the door with Bart.

GARY

We thought we should walk you to  
school.

BART

(WAVING THEM OFF)...Uh that's o.k.,  
fellas.

BENJAMIN

Better safe than sorry...

CUT TO:

**EXT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - TEN MINUTES LATER**

NELSON stands over the three nerds, who lay sprawled on the  
ground. An embarrassed Bart stands off to the side.

NELSON

Haw haw!

GARY

(TO OTHER NERDS) Lie still, he may  
lose interest!

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING**

The Simpsons are eating breakfast. Marge, Lisa and Bart  
look grumpy.

BART

Those guys are driving me crazy. They kept me up all night with their electric trains.

LISA

Dad, it's bad enough that I'm going to have to marry a guy like that someday -  
- can't we do something?

MARGE

I agree. I want those geeks out of my house.

HOMER

All right. All right. I'll figure out a way to get them back into college.  
But I think you're overreacting.

**SFX: TOY TRAIN WHISTLE AND CHUG**

Suddenly, a tiny electric train **CHUGS** across the bottom of the frame. The Simpsons follow it with their eyes.

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BART'S BEDROOM - LATER**

Doug, Gary and Benjamin are cowering in a corner.

GARY

Please, Mr. Simpson. Leave us alone.

HOMER

I'm telling you guys, it'll work. The only antidote to a zany scheme is an even zanier scheme.

BENJAMIN

(MOANS) I need my hive cream.

Homer **SNAPS** his fingers.

HOMER

I got it! We're gonna fix it so you  
guys save the dean's life.

SMASH CUT TO:

**INT. CAR - TIGHT SHOT**

Homer is hunched over the wheel, with a look of crazed determination. He checks his watch.

HOMER

Perfect.

WIDEN to see that Homer is speeding across the campus, ripping up the lawn.

CUT TO:

**EXT. SPRINGFIELD U. - DEAN'S OFFICE**

Dean Peterson emerges. Doug, Benjamin, and Gary are crouched nervously behind some nearby bushes.

GARY

(LOOKING AT HIS WATCH) O.K. We push  
him out of the way in exactly three  
seconds.

DEAN PETERSON

Should we correct for wind resistance?

BENJAMIN

(MUSING) Hmm. Possibly...

Homer **SLAMS** full speed into the dean with a sickening **THUD**.

DOUG

(SMALL) Oh my.



## INT. SPRINGFIELD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - ROOM - DAY

Homer and the three nerds visit the dean who is lying in bed in a full body cast.

HOMER

Well, dean, I'm really sorry but, I guess this makes us even.

DEAN PETERSON

(WEAKLY) I'm not sure I under...

HOMER

Look, our feud is hurting these innocent kids. All those pranks were my idea. I'm the one who should be expelled.

DEAN PETERSON

Mister Simpson, I'm touched by your honesty. And who knows, perhaps I've been a bit of an ogre myself. How's this, I'll re-admit your friends and forget this whole silly incident ever occurred.

DR. HIBBERT enters holding an artificial hip joint.

DR. HIBBERT

Dean, this is what your new hip will look like.

Hibbert works the joint. It **SQUEAKS** pathetically then **SNAPS** in two.

DR. HIBBERT (CONT'D)

(CHUCKLES GOOD NATUREDLY) You're gonna  
have to go easy on it.

INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - DORM ROOM - NIGHT

The nerds are back at their desks and Homer stands between them.

BENJAMIN

Gee, we even got our old room back.

HOMER

Yeah, the dean said other students  
wouldn't take it because there isn't a  
shower.

DOUG

There isn't? Huh.

GARY

We really want to thank you, Mr.  
Simpson.

HOMER

(SIGHS) No problem, guys. The  
important thing is that we wrapped up  
all the loose ends.

Homer crosses his arms and smiles way too broadly.

INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - NUCLEAR PHYSICS CLASS - DAY

PROFESSOR

Since so many of you turned out for the  
review session last night, there's  
really nothing else to say except good  
luck on tomorrow's big final exam.

HOMER

Exam?!? This is just like one of those  
bad dreams.

Homer looks down to see that he is in his underwear.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(SCREAM)

INT. SPRINGFIELD U. - DORM ROOM - LATER

GARY

(VERY CONCERNED) What are you going to  
do Mr. Simpson?

HOMER

Actually, I've been working on a plan.  
During the exam, I'll hide under some  
coats and hope that somehow everything  
will work out.

DOUG

(SKEPTICAL THEN DRAMATIC) Or, with our  
help you could cram like you've never  
crammed before.

HOMER

(SHRUGGING) Whatever. Either way is  
good...

MONTAGE

MUSIC: INSPIRATIONAL

1.) Homer checks out a stack of books at the campus  
library. He adds them to a wheelbarrow full of books and  
wheels them away.

2) The three nerds are drilling Homer with flash cards. They hold up " $E=MC^2$ ". Homer nods. They hold up " $g=9.8M/s^2$ ". Homer nods again. They hold up "BATHROOM BREAK". Homer nods vigorously and runs off.

3.) Homer's head is restrained in a vice and his eyes are taped open. Gary massages his scalp as Benjamin and Doug turn the pages of an opened book propped in front of Homer.

4) The nerds wave to a confident Homer as he enters a building labelled, "EXAMINATION HALL."

5) A smiling Homer hands his completed test to the professor. Homer turns and exits jubilantly, **KICKING HIS HEELS** in the air.

6) **TIGHT** on Homer's test. As the **INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC** climaxes, a hand quickly scans the test answers, then stamps a big red "F" on it.

**INT. SPRINGFIELD U.- DORM ROOM - SEVERAL DAYS LATER**

The three nerds are reading a letter as Homer lies on the couch.

GARY

I can't believe you failed.

HOMER

Stupid true/false. (MOANS) I'm going to lose my job because my brain's no good.

GARY

Mr. Simpson, there is a way. We could access your academic record with a computer and... well, change your grade.

HOMER

(AMAZED) Computers can do that?

DOUG

It's how we met our Phys. Ed.  
requirement.

GARY

Really, the only problem is the moral  
dilemma it raises, which requires...

We WIDEN to see Homer hugging and kissing Benjamin's  
computer.

HOMER

(SMOOCHING) Huh? Oh right, that.

**INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

The family and the three nerds are sitting around. Marge  
is reading Homer's grade.

MARGE

(IMPRESSED) An "A+ !" Homer, how did  
you do it?

HOMER

(COY) Oh, let's just say I had help  
from a "little electronic friend..."

MARGE

You changed your grade with a computer?

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

BART

Way to go, dad!

HOMER

Look, the important thing is that we all learned a lesson. (TO NERDS) These guys learned the richness and variety of the world outside college.

GARY

No we didn't. We've learned to go to graduate school, become professors, and stay on campus for the rest of our lives.

HOMER

Then I learned that the real value of college is study and hard work.

LISA

But you only passed your course by cheating.

HOMER

(THINKING) H-mm. I guess all I learned is that deep down, underneath it all, I'm a nerd too.

Gary, Doug, and Benjamin react.

GARY/DOUG/BENJAMIN

You think we're nerds?

Bad ROCK MUSIC kicks in and the credits scroll over stills from the episode, including many we've never seen before (such as Homer on water-skis, wearing a toga; Homer leading a massive food-fight, Homer pushing Dean Peterson into a pool, and the nerds driving a tank onto a football field).

FADE OUT

THE END